

REMARKS

Status of the claims

Claims 1-20, 22-50, 52-78 and 80-88 were examined. By virtue of this amendment, claims 1, 31, 59, 60, 61 and 88 are amended. Following entry of these amendments, claims 1-20, 22-50, 52-78 and 80-88 are pending.

Objections to the claims

Claims 59 and 60 were objected to because of improper dependencies, and claim 88 was objected to as being of improper dependent form. Office Action, paragraphs 3 and 4. Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out these errors, which have been corrected by amendment.

35 USC § 112, second paragraph

Claims 4-8, 34-38 and 64-68 have been rejected as indefinite for having insufficient antecedent basis for the term "first zinc finger protein." Office Action, paragraphs 9 and 10. To provide the requisite antecedent, claims 1, 31 and 61 have been amended to recite a first engineered zinc finger protein. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 4-8, 34-38 and 64-68 can be withdrawn.

Double patenting

Claims 1-20, 22-50, 52-78 and 80-88 have been rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-85 of US Patent No. 6,534,261. Office Action, paragraph 12. In response, a terminal disclaimer with respect to US Patent No. 6,534,261 is submitted herewith. Accordingly, this rejection can be withdrawn.

Claims 31-50, 52-78 and 80-88 have been rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-32 of US Patent No. 6,607,882. Office Action, paragraph 13. In response, a terminal disclaimer with respect to US Patent No. 6,607,882 is submitted herewith. Accordingly, this rejection can be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 9, 31, 39, 61 and 69 are **provisionally** rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 89-109 of US Patent Application Serial No. 10/222,614. Office Action, paragraph 14. In response, a terminal disclaimer with respect to US Patent Application Serial No. 10/222,614 is submitted herewith. Accordingly, this rejection can be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 10-12, 15, 31, 40-42, 45, 61, 70-72 and 74 are **provisionally** rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-34 of US Patent Application Serial No. 10/245,415. Office Action, paragraph 15. In response, a terminal disclaimer with respect to US Patent Application Serial No. 10/245,415 is submitted herewith. Accordingly, this rejection can be withdrawn.

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 18-20, 22, 23, 26-29, 31-38, 40-42, 48-50, 52, 53, 56-59, 61-68, 70-72, 76-78, 80, 81 and 84-87 are **provisionally** rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 8-11, and 25-34 of US Patent Application Serial No. 09/942,087. Office Action, paragraph 16. In response, a terminal disclaimer with respect to US Patent Application Serial No. 09/942,087 is submitted herewith. Accordingly, this rejection can be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance and look forward to early notification to that effect. Please address all communications to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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